ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Grateful acknowledgement is made to Dr. R. Elangovan, Supervisor for valuable guidance, unstinted assistance and excellent encouragement given throughout the period of preparation of this thesis. It is virtually impossible to thank him suitably for all the help he rendered.

The author is immensely grateful to Dr. T. Meenambal, and Dr. K. Sukumaran, Doctorate Committee Members for their valuable guidance, advice, suggestions and help in the preparation of thesis.

The author wishes to record his gratitude and thanks to Dr. P. K. Kumaresan, Dean, Examinations, V.M.K.V. Engineering College, Salem for his valuable advice and suggestions in preparation of the thesis. The author sincerely express heartfelt gratitude to Dr. T. Subramani, Assistant Professor, Department of Geology, College of Engineering, Anna University, Chennai for his much needed support for the initiation and completion of this project.

The author expressed his sincere thanks to family members and others who have helped him directly or indirectly in the preparation of thesis. Lastly and most importantly, thanks to God Almighty, for invariable listening to mother’s prayers for me.

SUBRAMANI T